

SECTION 1.10 ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

In Article 1.10.03-Water Pollution Control: BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Add the following after Required Best Management Practices Number 13:

14. The Contractor is hereby notified that the State listed species of Special Concern Eastern ribbon snake (*Thamnophis s. sauritus*), is present within the Project limits. In Connecticut, the Eastern ribbon snake uses a variety of habitats including shallow water, marshy areas, grassy and shrubby areas that border streams and wooded swamps. They can often be seen basking along water's edge. Snakes cannot regulate their body temperature internally and must warm themselves in the sun. Eastern ribbon snakes want to avoid humans and their first line of defense is to flee. They may release musk when handled, and rarely may bite. **They are not venomous.** They are harmless snakes. Eastern ribbon snakes hibernate near streams in the winter from about October to March. They will use muskrat bank burrows or houses, ant mounds, crayfish burrows or vole burrows for dens.

If work must be done during the Eastern ribbon snakes active period (April 1 to October 1) the Department will require precautionary measures to protect the Eastern ribbon snake and Eastern ribbon snake habitat. All construction activities taking place within the snake's active period will need to be coordinated with the Department.

The Contractor shall through the Engineer at least 10 days prior to the commencement of any construction activities, arrange for a CT DOT Environmental Inspector from the Office of Environmental Planning (OEP) or their authorized delegate to be available to meet and discuss proper protocol for maintaining environmental commitments made to the protection of this species and habitat. OEP will provide oversight through the District to ensure that the following protocols are followed and maintained during the course of the Project:

- a. Exclusionary practices will be required where wetlands are present in order to prevent any turtle access into construction areas. These measures will need to be installed at the limits of disturbance as shown on the plans.
- b. All staging and storage areas, outside of previously paved locations, regardless of the duration of time they will be utilized, must be reviewed by and receive written approval from OEP through the District.
- c. All construction personnel working within the Eastern ribbon snake habitat must be apprised of the species description and the possible presence of a listed species.
- d. In areas where silt fence is used for exclusion, it shall be removed as soon as the area is stable to allow for reptile and amphibian passage to resume.

- e. Any Eastern ribbon snakes encountered within the immediate work area shall be carefully moved to an adjacent area outside of the excluded area and the field inspector must immediately contact OEP with the location.
- f. No heavy machinery or vehicles may be parked in any Eastern ribbon snake habitat.
- g. Special precautions must be taken to avoid degradation of wetland habitats including any wet meadows and seasonal pools.
- h. The Contractor must search the work area each morning prior to any work being done.

This species is protected by state laws which prohibit killing, harming, taking, or keeping them in your possession. Workers shall be notified of the existence of the Eastern ribbon snake in this area and be apprised of the laws protecting them. Photographs and the laws protecting the Eastern ribbon snake (species ID sheets will be provided by OEP) shall be posted in the Contractor's and DOT field office. Any observations of this species are to be immediately reported to OEP at (860) 594-2937 or (860) 594-2938.